

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a free school

School name	King's Leadership Academy Bolton
DfE registration number	350 4004
Unique reference number (URN)	147077
Inspection number	10103259
Inspection dates	13/06/2019
Reporting inspector	Neil Mackenzie



Information about the inspection

This inspection was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the Secretary of State for Education. It was carried out under section 99(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.¹

In carrying out this type of inspection, inspectors assess the extent to which the school is likely to meet 'The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014' when it opens.²

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school:

Number of day pupils	Initially 180 in September 2019, rising to 900
Age range	11 to 16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

The school will be part of the Great Schools Trust which has four schools already operating in the northwest of England, two of which are free schools.

Currently the proposed site is 'brown field' and all previous buildings demolished and cleared. The completion date for the permanent school buildings is August 2021. The trust hopes that the school will open in temporary buildings at the start of September this year. The erection of the temporary buildings will start and finish in July.

As part of the Great Schools Trust, the King's Leadership Academy Bolton will have the accountability procedures, support and guidance that the trust offers its other schools.

Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

Overall outcome	The school is likely to meet all the relevant independent school standards when it opens.
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¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99.

² www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/schedule/made. Part 1 to Schedule 1 is not reported against because it does not apply to academies, free schools, studio schools and UTCs.

Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. This school will adopt the curricular rationale of the trust. The trust's documentation gives a comprehensive illustration of what the whole curriculum will contain, including core subjects, an optional subject and values with a strong emphasis on leadership and character. A large part of the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development will be made through the school's ASPIRE programme. This includes relationships, health and well-being, living in the wider world, British values and leadership. There will be ample opportunities for pupils to build understanding of mutual respect and tolerance for those of other beliefs and traditions. A very clear policy promotes British values. Intended provision for this part is very strong.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. The school has appointed an experienced designated safeguarding leader. The school has modified standard trust safeguarding documents and policies with specific details that are relevant to the school.

Health and safety documentation meets requirements and the responsibilities are clear. Procedures for assessing risk are clearly explained. Plans for both the temporary buildings and the proposed permanent buildings incorporate adequate emergency evacuation exits. Leaders are aware of their responsibilities to have all school buildings evaluated with regard to fire regulations.

Medical care procedures, including the safe storage of medicines, are described in the school's medical care policy. Provision for first aid has been carefully considered, including training pupils as part of their personal development. The trust has several employees who are registered first-aid trainers.

The school's behaviour documentation explains the standards that will be expected of its pupils. The school's anti-bullying policy is detailed and includes appropriate strategies for addressing any concerns.

The school site and building will be virtually identical to the trust's school in Warrington. The school will adopt the proven pupils' supervision strategies as established in its sister school. The school has a similarly secure plan for supervising pupils while they are accommodated in the temporary premises.

All documentation complies with guidance.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The single central record is already in place. This details the required checks made, by whom and when, and these checks are recorded on the system, including for governors. Teaching staff have been appointed and leaders are currently ensuring that all checks are being undertaken. Senior staff are entirely conversant with how to ensure that only suitable supply staff and other contractors work within the school.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The school will initially consist of temporary accommodation and suitable outside spaces for recreational and teaching activities. The safe flow of cars, including how parents and carers safely should deliver their children to school, have been incorporated into the plans. The buildings supplied will meet all current requirements including, for example, provision for first aid, toileting and medical facilities. Provision has been made for suitable external and internal lighting.

The plans for the new permanent building are well advanced and show details of high-quality provision, meeting all requirements.

Adequate security for both temporary and permanent sites has been incorporated into the plans.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. The school expects parents will initially turn to the school's website for information. The website is at an early stage of development. However, it is modelled on the sister school's website, which provides comprehensive and good quality information to parents. Copies of policies can be made available on request.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. The complaints policy is comprehensive and clearly written. It contains all the necessary steps and the timelines for the efficient handling of any complaints and will appear on the school's website. Copies can be made available if requested.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The Trust already has considerable experience of opening and running academies and free schools. They have a good understanding of the regulatory requirements having already fulfilled them successfully in their other schools. Leadership has established high-quality policies, which provide strongly for the welfare, health and safety of pupils. Leadership is also clear about how it will continue to monitor provision so that the

independent school standards are met consistently. They have the necessary skills and knowledge to do this.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The policy for equalities identifies groups. It is clear about how to support each group of pupils and monitor impact. Plans for the temporary and new permanent buildings show that features such as ramps and adaptations are included. Provision is being made to provide suitable spaces where pupils can practise their faith.

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